MANITOBA WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
1999 - 2000

101-00247/

MANITOBA WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DES FEMMES DU MANITOBA

September 29, 2000

Honourable Diane McGifford
Minister responsible for the Status of Women
Room 118 - 450 Broadway
Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council. It provides the details of Council's activities and expenditures for the fiscal year 1999/2000.

Sincerely,

Kim Clare

Kimberley Anne Clare
Chairperson

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Chairperson's Message

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to reflect on the purposes and recent accomplishments of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council, as I believe the past year has been one in which there has been demonstrated a re-newed commitment to advancing all forms of women's equality in the province of Manitoba.

As you are aware, the purpose of Council is to promote, educate and advise government on issues that affect the status of women, thus assuring that government's policies, programs and services assume a gender – sensitive analysis and strive to improve the status of women. Appointed to the position of Council Chairperson in January 2000, I quickly became aware of how important these objectives are, and the tremendous responsibility this Council holds on behalf of the women of Manitoba. The many women and women's organizations with whom we are in contact, as well as the Council members themselves, ensure that the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council works diligently to bring the concerns of women to the appropriate decision-making tables. This annual report offers the reader a summary of Council's work over the past twelve months. As you review it, I am sure you'll see that the level of activity has been significant.

Priority concerns of women have been well established over the past two decades. While advancement has been seen on many fronts and admittedly, women experience more formal equality under the law, there are still crucial issues too many women experience in their daily lives that seriously erode the quality of life and impede opportunities for equality. The most serious of these issues are poverty, or women's precarious attachment to economic security, and violence against women. Council acknowledges that the challenges for change are steep and that the efforts to eradicate poverty and violence must be persistent.

In recognition of the challenges, Council has applauded the government elected in September,1999 as it made critical decisions early in its mandate to enhance funding for women's shelters, for child care programs, for community development initiatives, for health care, and for social assistance reform. As community capacity for caring strengthens, so too will women's opportunities for social equality, human rights and justice.

This past spring, Council members attended a lecture by Marilyn Waring who explained that 'progress' and the related wealth realized by transnational globalization, was being enjoyed by a very small minority of people worldwide. Indeed, as countries adopt fiscal policies in line with transnational market trends, they are, in turn, pressured to withdraw expenditures on health, education and social services. The 'price' of progress, particularly on women, can become overburdening as more expectations fall on family members, predominantly women, for child and elder care, for health care, and volunteer community services. Waring suggests the application of a "Genuine Progress Indicator", one that considers impact of policy from a holistic, environmental and gendered perspective, measuring both positive and negative outcomes. Council has recommended that our legislators apply a similar progress measure to policy development provincially, with the hope that goals for social justice are not ignored, but rather prioritized.

Council's continuing success depends on working collaboratively with others. Please feel welcome to contact Council at any time with your concerns. We thank those who have brought us many items for action in this past year. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to work with the Council members, a diverse and committed group of women from throughout the province, and as well, the Council's dedicated staff.

It is our goal to maintain linkages with women in all of Manitoba's geographical regions, to hear each other's ideas, ideals and visions, thus building on our knowledge and awareness of women's priorities. Together we will continue to implement Council's mandate, ensuring that government is fully aware of women's realities in this new century. Council, as it moves ahead, will advocate as strongly as possible that the Government of Manitoba act responsibly to address women's concerns and thereby promote equality for all citizens of Manitoba.

Kim Clare

Kim Clare

Advisory Council

GOAL:

To advance the goal of equal participation of women in society and to promote changes in social, legal and economic structures to that end.

BACKGROUND:

In 1970, The Royal Commission on the Status of Women recommended the creation of a federal Status of Women Council and similar agencies concerned with the status of women in each of the provinces and territories.

As a result of concerted lobbying by women's organizations across the country, a federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women was established in 1973 and several provincial and territorial advisory councils were brought into existence in the 1980s. At this time, the federal council and some of the provincial councils have ceased operation. Manitoba is the only province west of Quebec with an arms-length council to advise government on issues of concern to women.

The Government of Manitoba established the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women through Order-in-Council in 1980. To ensure its permanence as an independent, arms-length organization, Bill 3, *The Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women's Act,* was introduced in the Manitoba Legislature on March 2, 1987.

The Act received Royal Assent on July 17, 1987.

In appointing members to Council, the Manitoba Government endeavours to select persons who are representative of the various geographic, ethnocultural and socio-economic sectors of Manitoba.

In December 1991, Bill 5, *The Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women Amendment Act* was introduced into the legislature. This bill sought a change of name for Council to the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council. This amendment to the Act received Royal Assent on June 24, 1992.

MANDATE:

To advise the Government of Manitoba on matters relating to the achievement of full and equal participation of women in society. The Advisory Council advises government on such matters as are referred by government to Council for consideration and on such other matters as Council may consider appropriate to draw to the attention of the Province.

ROLE:

- Consulting with Manitoba women on emerging and existing issues concerning women to enable Council to offer advice and recommendations to government. This consultation process includes women from rural, northern and urban communities, as well as immigrant, Francophone, visible minority and Aboriginal women and women with disabilities.
- Working closely with government officials from a range of departments to promote the development of government initiatives, which reflect the equality rights of women.
- Working in co-operation with women's organizations to support and facilitate community activities aimed at improving the status of women.
- Formulating and submitting to the Manitoba Government recommendations which can shape policies, programs and legislation which promote equality of opportunity for women.

STRUCTURE:

The Advisory Council operates as an arms-length body, funded by the Provincial Government, and reports directly to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Council consists of a Chairperson and at least eight and no more than 18 other members, for terms of three and two years, respectively.

Council is supported by a staff of four.

DUTIES:

To fulfill its duties under the Act, Council shall:

- advise the minister on such matters relating to equality of status for women as the minister may refer to it for consideration, or as the Council, on its own initiative, undertakes for consideration;
- recommend to the minister policies, projects, programs of research, study or activity, legislation and other steps and initiatives designed to advance the goal of equality of status for women; and
- carry out such other duties and functions related to equality of status for women as the minister may direct or as the Council on its own initiative may undertake.

POWERS:

In carrying out its duties, Council may:

- receive petitions and submissions from persons, groups and organizations;
- hold public meetings;
- disseminate information to the public;
- conduct, or participate in, programs of research, study or activity;
- carry out any of its projects and activities in co-operation with other bodies both inside and outside the province; and
- engage, on a temporary basis or for a specific purpose, such persons who have a technical or specialized knowledge of any matter relating to the work of Council as the Council considers necessary to advise and assist the Council.

Council Meeting

Members of Council

Council's membership is representative of urban, rural and northern women, including Aboriginal, Francophone and visible minority women. Members have expertise and experience in a broad range of areas of concern to women, including health, education, small business, agriculture, voluntarism, the justice system, employment equity, single-parenting, employment and training, the arts, spirituality, work in the home, and work in the paid labour market.

Council members consult regularly with representatives of women's organizations throughout the province and with individuals who are working at the community level on women's issues.

Members bring concerns expressed by Manitoba women to the regular meetings of Council where they determine priorities and formulate recommendations to the Manitoba Government.

KIMBERLEY ANNE CLARE, Chairperson (Winnipeg)

Kim comes to Council with a wealth of knowledge and experience in women's issues. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in Social Work from the Memorial University of Newfoundland. In recent years Kim has worked together with numerous women's organizations on issues of strategic planning, board development, program evaluation and participant action research. In addition to working with Council, Kim is Director and Associate Professor of the Inner City Social Work Program, Winnipeg Education Centre.

MAE LOUISE CAMPBELL (St. Laurent)

As an Aboriginal elder who is very active in her community, Mae Louis is dedicated to teaching Aboriginal youth and young women about their special gifts, the medicine-wheel philosophy and the traditional ways of healing. She has experience with ownership of a small business.

KATHY CORBETT (Winnipeg)

As a mother of four young children, Kathy is very involved in community activities. Her background is in the field of nursing and her area of concern is health care as it pertains to acute care, emergency services and women's health.

PATRICIA FLAWS (Winnipeg)

Patricia has a background in business and runs her own skills training business. She is involved in a non-profit organization that does job placement and assesses employment skills for immigrants who are already professionals. Patricia's talent as an educational skills trainer keeps her in demand as a speaker in the community. She currently runs a program for children who are newcomers to Winnipeg.

KEITH LOUISE FULTON (Winnipeg)

Keith, an Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Women's Studies at the University of Winnipeg, is a valuable asset to Council. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Western Ontario in 1981. Keith has been, and continues to be very active in the women's community. She is a member of several organizations and has published numerous articles on women's issues.

JOAN GOBLE (Thompson)

As a woman living and working in Thompson, Manitoba, Joan is particularly aware of the special needs of women in northern communities. She is an educator and Vice Principal at R.D. Parker School, as well as an active community member. Married, with one child, Joan maintains a strong interest in working with teens.

BETTY HENDERSON (Winnipeg)

Retired from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Betty continues to work actively in her community. Instead of slowing down, she keeps busy with fundraising for charity. Betty offers a solid background in education and works with issues pertaining to seniors and violence against women.

PAT HEUCHERT (Minnedosa)

Pat has a strong background in the field of education, as a teacher, an administrator and an Educator Assistance Program Counsellor. She also has worked with CNIB, the Department of Indian Affairs and the University of Manitoba in various related capacities. Her community involvement includes membership on the steering committee of the Brandon Career Symposium and board involvement with the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, the Minnedosa Credit Union and the Economic Development Board of Minnedosa.

CRYSTAL LABORERO (Winnipeg)
Crystal is the Director of Aboriginal Employment Initiatives with the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and also works actively in her community. Her involvement includes membership in the Native Women's Management Program, the Aboriginal Career Awareness Committee, the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment, the Advisory Committee for the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, the Urban Circle Training Program and the First Nations Pavilion for Folklorama. Areas of concern to Crystal are single parenting issues, youth initiatives, diversity and employment equity.

CECILE LESAGE (St. Pierre Jolys)
Having grown up on a farm in rural Manitoba, Cecile is well-versed in issues of concern to Francophone women and women in the agricultural community. Her volunteer memberships are numerous, including involvement as a 4-H leader, a member of a Main Street Revitalisation Project and a director of a 55 Plus housing project.

SANDRA PIERSON (Brandon)
As a woman who works with the visually-impaired community in Brandon, Sandra devotes a great deal of her time to the CNIB Board of Management and the CNIB Western Manitoba Advisory Board. Her activities include fundraising, public relations and equity in the workplace for blind and visually-impaired individuals. She is also very involved with sport and has volunteered at the Canada Summer Games, World Curling, the Scott Tournament of Hearts and World Youth Basketball.

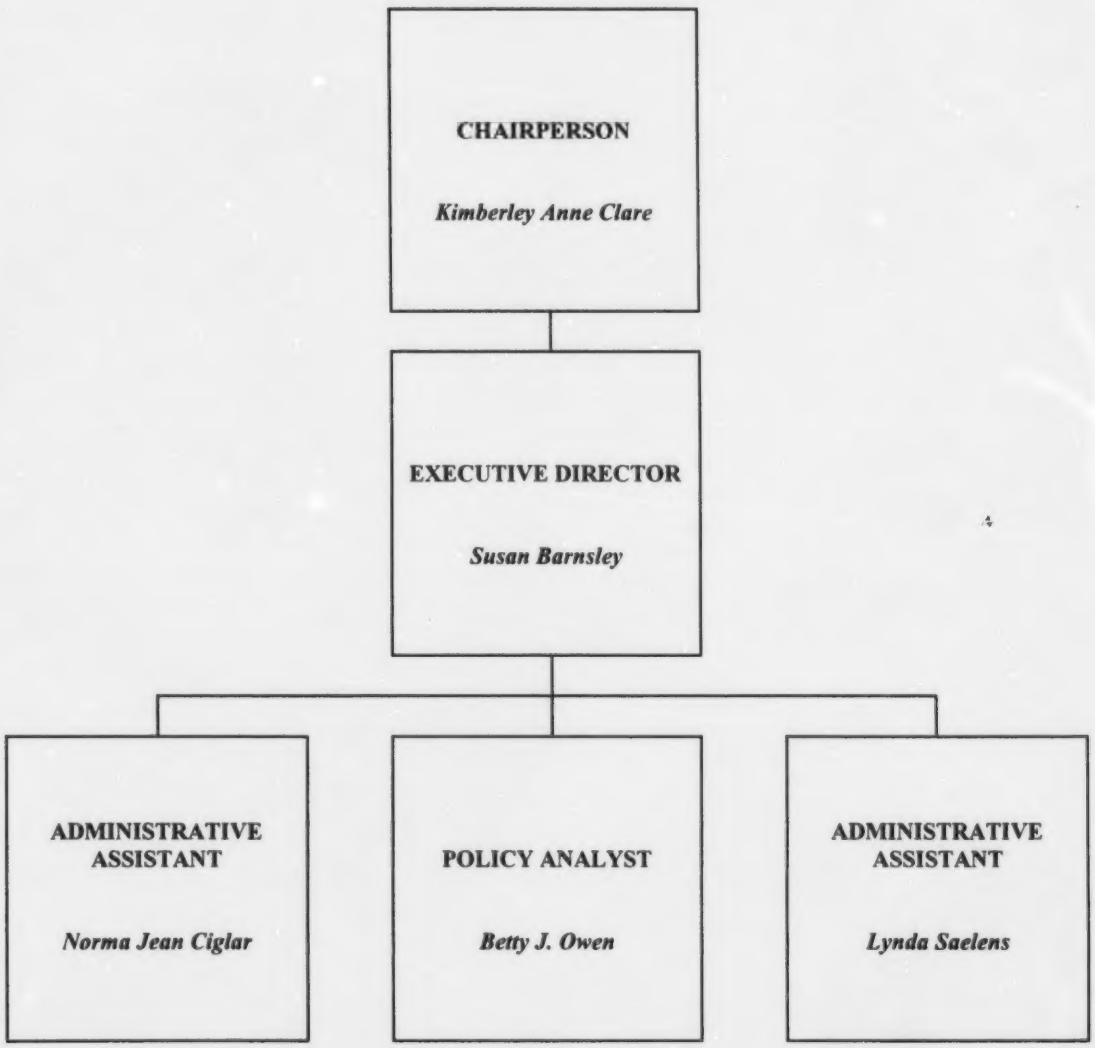
GRETTA REDAHL (Flin Flon)
Gretta is the Director of the Flin Flon/Creighton Library. She has a background in library administration, business and economic development. She has been involved with the Manitoba Library Association and is a director with the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce. She is dedicated to enhancing leadership and networking skills among northern women.

CYNTHIA WALKES (Winnipeg)
As an educator for 26 years and a school administrator for 12 years, Cynthia's primary field of interest is education. She has also worked extensively in a volunteer capacity for the Museum of Man and Nature and the Cancer Society, as well as being a member on the Board of Governors at the University of Manitoba and the Board of Black Educators Association. Her volunteer commitments within her religious community include being a Sunday School Teacher, a People's Warden, and a lay delegate to Synod.

HOLLY WIRTH (Winnipeg)
Enthusiasm and the concerns of young women are two things Holly brings to Council in her second term. She has been involved in women's groups in her community and is interested in helping young people crack a tough job market. Holly is an engineer by profession.

SANDRA ZINCHUK (Winnipeg)
Sandra's main area of concern is women involved in the justice system. As a lawyer, she is interested in promoting women's increased participation in the judiciary. She is also interested in women's health issues and the challenges facing career women.

Organization Chart



Council Activities

In order to carry out its advisory function, the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council works closely with the women's community. Issues and concerns are identified through this interaction and are reviewed at Council meetings, where it is determined what action will be undertaken by Council. Council may wish to develop recommendations to the government or offer referral assistance, as appropriate. Other avenues for bringing forth issues to Council's attention are as follows:

- *through members of Council who bring issues from their regions to Council meetings;*
- *via the Chairperson;*
- *by individuals who write letters expressing concerns;*
- *by individuals who telephone the Advisory Council office seeking assistance with various concerns; and*
- *by those invited to make presentations at Council meetings on issues related to women.*

I. Council Meetings

In accordance with *The Manitoba Advisory Council Act on the Status of Women*, the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council held six mandated meetings in 1999/2000. Two meetings were held in rural Manitoba, with the remainder held in Winnipeg. The dates and locations were as follows:

- **May 15, 1999 in St. Laurent**
- **June 19, 1999 in Winnipeg**
- **September 11, 1999 in St. Pierre Jolys**
- **November 20, 1999 in Winnipeg**
- **February 12, 2000 in Winnipeg**
- **March 11, 2000 in Winnipeg**

Some of the issues that were raised at these meetings for the purpose of information, discussion or action by Council are as follows:

- impact of health reform on women
- classification of films
- women and technology
- retraining of nurses
- nomination of women for awards
- strategic planning for women's health
- sexual harassment in sport
- centre for children's well-being
- health care in rural and northern Manitoba
- seniors housing
- drug and alcohol abuse
- teen smoking
- educational upgrading for employment
- stalking legislation
- mentoring for women
- restorative justice
- International Year of Volunteers
- women's equality
- valuing of women's work
- issues of concern to Aboriginal women
- hormone replacement therapy
- *The Young Offenders Act*
- violence against women
- women as caregivers
- women entrepreneurs
- genetically modified foods

- core funding for women's programs
- Millennium funding – Famous Five
- crime prevention
- National Children's Agenda
- teen pregnancy
- women's health and wellness
- women's legal equality
- building stronger families
- equality in education
- childcare
- International Year of Older Persons
- volunteer screening and risk management
- building healthy communities
- economic security for women
- pornography on the Internet
- World March of Women 2000
- sexual exploitation of women and children
- access to education and training
- representation of women on Regional Health Authority Boards
- mental health services for women
- increasing women's participation in the judiciary
- child abuse
- policy of zero tolerance
- over-medication of seniors
- self-esteem
- gender-based analysis
- Coalition of Women's Advisory Councils
- stress management
- women in leadership
- employment equity
- public service reform
- issues facing immigrant women
- home care
- young women as the victims and perpetrators of violence
- impact of sexual abuse on labour and delivery
- misogyny in the media
- Montreal Massacre
- family violence
- teen health issues
- racism
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect
- resources for single parents
- issues concerning Francophone women
- osteoporosis and menopause
- needs of incarcerated women
- participatory health research
- training needs of the working poor
- transportation needs of single parents
- prevention of family violence
- midwifery
- northern economic viability

II. Presentations to Council

Council heard presentations from individuals and groups in the community, as well as from government organizations, on a variety of topics of interest to women and their families. These presentations inform Council of current issues, programs and research and enhance its advisory capacity to government. The following presentations were made to Council:

- The Voluntary Sector
- The Management of Stress
- The Mandate and Services Provided by the Family Violence Prevention Branch
- Rural Issues Regarding Childcare, Health Services, Education, Entrepreneurship and Seniors
- The Mandate and Services Provided by De Salaberry & District Health Centre
- Women in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Mental Health Issues in Rural Manitoba
- The Services of St. Pierre Youth for Christ Drop In Centre

- Pluri-elles' Role in St. Pierre Jolys
- Home Care in the Eastman Area
- A Description of the Child Day Care Program in the Eastman Region
- The Role of the Health Corner in St. Pierre
- The Role of a Midwife and Midwifery Services
- The Mandate of the Grunthal Volunteer Restorative Justice Committee

III. Priority Issues

Council focused its work in several areas over the past year. In-house committees were formed to address these priorities:

- **Women's Health and Wellness**
- **Women's Access to Education, Training & Employment**
- **Adolescent Women's Health**
- **Women and the Justice System**
- **Senior Women's Issues**
- **Concerns of Aboriginal and Minority Women**

IV. Actions and Recommendations of Council

As a result of Council's research and its interaction with the community, issues of concern to women were identified and addressed via ministerial briefings and recommendations to the Government of Manitoba. Other key actions undertaken by Council were the development of partnerships in the community to work on issues of common concern. Some examples of Council's advice to government and its community partnerships are as follows:

- Council briefed the Minister of Justice on issues regarding the granting of bail in cases involving domestic violence, Alberta's *Protection of Children Involved in Prostitution Act*, the restorative justice model and the needs of incarcerated women.
- Council partnered with Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) in seeking funding to study the impact of sexual abuse on labour and delivery.
- Council sought funding in partnership with numerous women's organizations to erect a statue of the Famous Five as a project to mark the Millennium.
- Council participated in the 1999 Farm Women's Conference and briefed government on issues of concern to rural women and their families.
- Council provided a seniors information session on over-medication, and recommended that government make more information available province-wide to seniors regarding their medications.
- Council presented an information session to the community on the new stalking legislation and advised that government develop and disperse relevant information throughout the province.
- Council briefed relevant government ministers on concerns the community has regarding genetically modified food.
- Council provided an information session to the community on the process of legalizing midwifery in Manitoba and recommended to government that the legislation be proclaimed.
- Council urged government to increase funding for programs at the Portage Correctional Institution for Women and to address the overcrowding of its residents.

V. Major Accomplishments of Council

- ***Updated and printed*** 10,000 copies of a fifth edition of Council's *Parenting on your Own, A Handbook For One-Parent Families 1999*. The 15,000 copies of the fourth edition were distributed to single parents and related service providers over the last year and a half.

- ***Facilitated recognition of several exemplary women and their work*** in the community by nominating them for the Manitoba Crime Prevention Awards.

- ***Provided informational sessions*** for the community on topics of concern to women: mail and telephone scams, gardening and health, the benefits of walking, financial planning, girls as the victims and perpetrators of violence, the new stalking legislation, midwifery, and a model of female leadership – Women as Gardeners.

- ***Held the annual commemorative ceremony***, the Sunrise Breakfast, to mark the anniversary date of the Montreal Massacre.

- ***Hosted a seniors event*** focusing on the over-medication of seniors, the positive aspects of exercise and the value of storytelling in building a sense of community.

- ***Expanded the networking capability of Council*** through increased contact with the community, government agencies and non-profit organizations.

- ***Increased Council's consultative role*** by expanding Council's participation on conference planning committees, public awareness campaigns and collaboration with women-centred organizations.

- ***Participated in, or attended*** numerous community workshops, meetings, events and conferences.

Community Involvement

I. Liaison

Council worked with, provided support services to, and maintained ties with over 400 women's groups, community organizations, relevant government agencies and service providers.

II. Support Services to the Community

- ***Provision of One-Stop Community Resource Library***. Council continued to provide a professionally catalogued inventory of relevant resource material on issues of concern to women for community use. This includes Internet access for the purpose of research.
- ***Provision of Support Services to the Community***. Council continued to provide on-site assistance with photocopying, mailing, faxing, computer and Internet availability, to non-profit women's organizations and community members at no cost.
- ***Provision of Information and Referrals to the Community***. Council supported hundreds of women calling the office with personal issues by offering appropriate information and referral sources to facilitate solutions of their problems.
- ***Provision of a Weekly List of Up-Coming Community Events***. Council compiled a weekly calendar of events of interest to women and faxed this out to over 150 organizations and interested individuals.
- ***Sponsorship of Low-Income Women to Community Events***. Council continued to provide limited sponsorship to low-income women attending community and Council-sponsored events and conferences.
- ***Attendance at Community Events, Meetings and Conferences***. Council supported relevant activities in the community that related to women by attendance at, and participation in over 160 community events, conferences and meetings.

III. Participation in the Community

Council participated in over 160 conferences, workshops and meetings of interest to women and their families over the 1999/2000 fiscal year. Some examples are as follows:

Conferences:

- United Nations Platform for Action Committee Manitoba (UNPAC MB) Conference: Beijing Plus 5
- 1999 Manitoba Farm Women's Conference
- Health Reform & Women: Opportunities for Change Conference
- International Association of Voluntary Efforts (IAVE) World Volunteer Conference in Edmonton
- Manitoba Women in Business – Voices of Experience Conference
- Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba – The Positive Aspects of Aging Conference
- Wisconsin Wellness Conference

Annual General Meetings

- Age & Opportunity Centre Inc.
- ALPHA House Project Inc.
- Business and Professional Women's Club
- Council of Women of Winnipeg
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba
- l'Entre Temps des Franco-Manitobaines Inc.
- The Laurel Centre
- North End Women's Centre
- Women's Health Clinic

Community Events

- December 6th Candlelight Vigil
- Earth Day Sunrise Ceremony
- Take Back the Night

Fundraising Events

- Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba
- Evergreen Women's Resource Centre
- Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre
- Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Open Houses

- The Clubhouse of Winnipeg Inc.
- Nine Circles Community Health Centres
- Employment Projects for Women
- Taking Charge!

IV. Nominations of Women for Awards of Distinction

Council nominated and supported exemplary women, for the following awards:

- Manitoba Justice Crime Prevention Awards
- YM/YWCA Women of Distinction Awards
- Manitoba Service Excellence Awards
- Premier's Volunteer Service Awards
- Citizens Hall of Fame

Future Directions

Each year Council identifies priority areas of concern to women and their families during a strategic planning session to determine an annual workplan. In 1999/2000, Council continued to focus on community liaison, outreach to the rural community, women's health, child care, violence against women and teen pregnancy. Council will continue this focus, as well as working on issues related to women in conflict with the law and the economic security of women. Other priorities will be the provision of assistance and information to the community, advice to government on issues of concern to women and the distribution of ***Parenting on your Own - A Handbook for One-Parent Families 1999***.

Publications

Over the years the Advisory Council has prepared a number of reports and submissions on a variety of issues of concern to women. Those printed prior to 1995 can be obtained by calling the Council office at 945-6281. The most current publications listed below are available, free of charge, from the Council office.

Reports:

- Annual Report, 1998-99 - September, 1999
- Annual Report, 1997-98 - September, 1998
- Annual Report, 1996-97 - September, 1997
- Annual Report, 1995-96 - September, 1996
- Annual Report, 1994-95 - September, 1995

Briefs/Submissions:

- Toward a Gender-Based Analysis of Canada Pension Plan Reform
  A Submission to the CPP Secretariat - May 30, 1996
- Submission to the Civil Justice Review Task Force - May 6, 1996

Other:

- Parenting on your Own: A Handbook for One-Parent Families: Fifth Edition - March, 1999

- Parenting on your Own: A Handbook for One-Parent Families: Fourth Edition - March, 1998

- Parenting on your Own: A Handbook for One-Parent Families: Third Edition - March, 1996

- Damsels in Distress: A Manitoba Sequel - November, 1993
  A Report from Council's conference on strategies to empower young women

- Take that seat!: a guide for women who want to be appointed to boards, agencies and commissions - August, 1992

Left to Right – Back Row: Kim Clare, Norma Ciglar; Front Row: Lynda Saelens, Sue Barnsley

Betty J. Owen

Financial Statement 1999 – 2000

SALARIES	
Managerial	50,432
Professional/Technical	20,326
Administrative Support	65,346
Employee Benefit Charge	13,471
Total Salaries	**$ 149,575**
OTHER EXPENDITURES	
Personnel Services	36,419
Transportation	10,330
Communication	31,233
Supplies and Services	13,529
Printing of Parenting on your Own	-
Capital Assets	-
Other Operating	27,889
Total Other Expenditures	**$ 119,400**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 268,975**

Kuhtey & Company
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Chairperson and Members of the
MANITOBA WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL:

I have examined the statement of operations of the **MANITOBA WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL** as at March 31, 2000. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, this financial statement present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2000, and the results of its operation for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Kuhtey & Company

July 3, 2000
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Certified General Accountant